

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 02722 121307Z
ACTION EUR-02

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R 120726Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
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USCINCEUR-ECAP
USNMR SHAPE
USIA WASHDC
SECSTATE WASHDC 9737

UNCLAS MADRID 2722

PASS: IOP/F

SECSTATE FOR EUR/IB DURKEE

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS

1. APRIL 7 ARRIBA (CONSERVATIVE) COLUMNIST M.E. CIMAS:
"THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS SEEN ITSELF OBLIGED TO
RETREAT IN THE THEME OF HUMAN RIGHTS, ANNOUNCING TO
THE CONGRESS THAT THE MANIFESTATIONS OF THE PRESIDENT
IN THIS RESPECT SHOULD NOT BE PASSED INTO LAW. IN
SHORT, IT HAS COME TO BE DEMONSTRATED THAT THE ECONOMIC
AND MILITARY INTERESTS PREVAIL IN U.S. POLICY, TO THE
POINT OF MAKING THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE DUCK HIS HEAD."

2. APRIL 8 ARRIBA: "AGAINST THE WISHES OF PRESIDENT
CARTER, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES APPROVED...THE
AMENDMENT THAT MAKES RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS A
CONDITION...OF THE AMERICAN VOTE IN INTERNATIONAL
FINANCIAL ORGANIZATIONS."

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3. M.E. CIMAS APRIL 8 ARRIBA: "PRESIDENT CARTER APPEARS
TO HAVE DEFINITELY LOST HIS GRIP OF THE THEME OF HUMAN
RIGHTS AFTER THE VOTE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES...
ALTHOUGH THE AMENDMENT STILL HAS TO BE APPROVED BY THE
SENATE, THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT CARTER COULD HAVE MADE
HIS FIRST POLITICAL SLIP."

4. JUAN YUSTE WRITES FROM WASHINGTON FOR APRIL 8 EL PAIS (LEFT CENTER): "DECIDING APPARENTLY TO BE 'MORE CATHOLIC THAN THE POPE,' THE U.S. CONGRESS YESTERDAY APPROVED A LAW -- CONTRARY TO THE MUCH MORE MODERATE WISHES OF CARTER -- THAT OBLIGES AMERICA TO VOTE AGAINST THE CONCESSION OF LOANS TO COUNTRIES WITH REPRESSIVE REGIMES... THE FACT THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAD ATTEMPTED TO SOFTEN THIS MEASURE...PROVOKED THE FIRST CRITICISMS AGAINST PRESIDENT CARTER, WHOSE PRESTIGE COULD BE SERIOUSLY AFFECTED...UNTIL NOW, THE PENALTIES IMPOSED BY THE NEW ADMINISTRATION AGAINST REPRESSIVE REGIMES HAVE BEEN MERELY SYMBOLIC...HOWEVER, THE OPPOSITION OF WASHINGTON TO THE CONCESSION OF INTERNATIONAL LOANS...REALLY COULD DAMAGE THE DICTATORSHIPS IN QUESTION, SOME OF WHICH REACTED ANGRILY TO THE CRITICISMS OF JIMMY CARTER AND POMPOUSLY REJECTED AID THAT DID NOT, IN FACT, AFFECT THEIR ECONOMIES." ITEM. RLYANCE.

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